



WHITESTOWN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Meeting
Tuesday, May 15, 2018
6:00 PM
Whitestown Municipal Complex– Conference Room
6210 Veterans Drive
Whitestown, Indiana

MINUTES

1. OPENING THE MEETING

- A. Call to Order – 6:07pm
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call
 - Andy Markle, President - PRESENT
 - Monika Mala, Vice President - PRESENT
 - Kisha Rollins, Secretary - PRESENT
 - James Tomlinson, Treasurer - PRESENT (few minutes late)
 - Abby Simpson – Member - PRESENT
 - Harlan Vondersaar – Member - ABSENT
 - (Vishnu Priya Chandrana to be appointed May 24th)
- D. Approve Minutes from April 10, 2018 meeting – passes 5-0

2. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Thank HRC founding member Raji Muthukrishnan for her invaluable service to the board. Presented framed award.

-moved up New Business A to recognize Fundae's Ice Cream for serving the ASL (American Sign Language) community. Presented newly created framed Albert S. White Award for Community Service.

-Andy makes motion to amend the agenda to add two items: a modification of the civil rights complaint form and a discussion about a resolution concerning protecting youth from conversion therapy. Abby seconds. Passes 4-0.

3. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Formation of scope of LGBTQ+ study committee and its tasks (discussed)
- B. Formation of scope of mediation committee and its tasks (discussed)
- C. Discuss 2018 Festival of Lights Celebration – gracious sponsorship offered by Arbor Homes, currently building a new neighborhood in Whitestown. They would like to sponsor the entire event with a \$5,000 donation. Board discusses the possibility of having to find a new venue if the Festival continues to grow in the future. 800+ people attended last year's inaugural

event; more are expected this year. Will begin marketing blitz in June. Will discuss event planning in more detail at June meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS


- A. Recognize Fundae's Ice Cream for serving the ASL (American Sign Language) community (moved to Presentations)
- B. Preparation for 2018 Annual Report – discussed. Board hopes study committees will produce some good data that can be included in 2018 annual report. Hope to better understand demographics of protected groups and how board can better serve them. Andy discusses needed changes to the civil rights complaint form. He feels it needs to be amended so that complaints of alleged acts of discrimination need to be filed within 180 days of the alleged discrimination instead of 90 days to be aligned with the state process. He also feels sexual orientation, religion and veteran status need to be added. James makes a motion to make said changes. Monika seconds. Passes 5-0.
- C. Creation of Autism Awareness campaigns – board would like to increase disability awareness and Autism awareness and education. Kisha recommends reaching out to BACA to possibly partner on some events. Tanya suggested partnering with our fire department to organize a special event with F.D. without lights and sirens to help children on the spectrum. Board will discuss further in the future.
- D. Creation of Whitestown Disability Awareness campaigns – Abby mentioned local resident with ALS looking to connect with others also fighting the disease. Board will look for possibilities in the future to promote awareness of all disabilities.
- E. Invitation for public input on disability-focused awareness events (like parent support groups, etc.) May invite groups to have tables set up at events to spread awareness about services available.
- F. Discussion on urging Council to put forward a protection for gender identity in the HRC ordinance – board agrees that this would be a good step. Andy will write
- G. Juneteenth discussion -- board discusses having a possible educational program on June 16th featuring a guest speaker. Members will look into possible speakers. June 16th is the same date as the Eiteljorg's events. A possible event could be held sometime between 11am – 1pm. Kisha suggests getting a local student to read the Emancipation Proclamation aloud as part of the event. Kisha suggests possibility
- H. Added item – discuss possible Resolution to protect LGBTQ+ youth from conversion therapy practices. Andy circulates a sample resolution and report from the APA (American Psychological Association) acknowledging that, in their opinion, sexual preference cannot be changed and that there is comprehensive scientific data behind that. Andy stresses that it's important not to legislate how religion works, but motive is instead to protect the health and welfare of citizens. James agrees it's important to get something, with all the proper data, in front of Town Council. Abby thinks it's important to raise awareness about this issue; about what conversion therapy is and that it's happening. Would like to get public opinion at an upcoming HRC meeting.

Additional item – board would like to change future meeting times to 6:30pm.

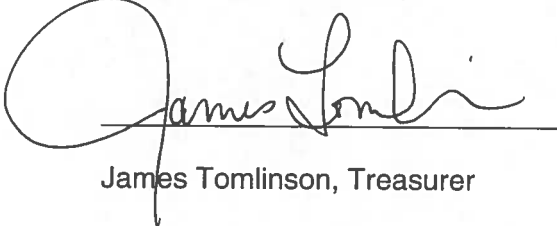
5. ADJOURN - 6:53pm

Andy Markle, Board President

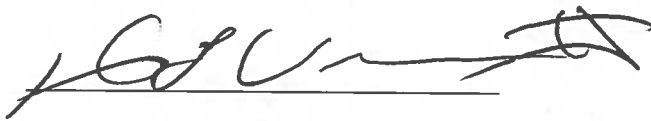
Monika Mala, Board Vice President



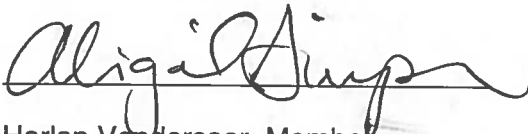
Kisha Rollins, Secretary



James Tomlinson, Treasurer



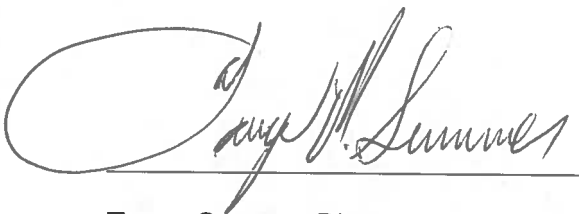
Abby Simpson, Member



Harlan Vondersaar, Member

~~Member (vacant)~~ Vishnu Priya Chandrana

ATTEST:



Tanya Sumner, Director of Public Relations (Board Liaison)
Town of Whitestown, Indiana

The next regular Whitestown Human Relations Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 12, 2018** at 6:30 PM in the conference room at the Whitestown Municipal Complex.